



EMSRB Post Transition Education Workgroup (PTWEG)
Meeting Notes
August 25, 2016 10:00-2:00

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Members present: Mark Baisley, John Zahn, Lisa Consie, Joanne Ewen, Heather Grinnsteinner, Doug Haffield, Steve Hagstrom, Marion Larson, Ron Lawler, Pat Lee, Brett Rima, Serena Totzke-Johnson, Eric Weller, Brad Wright, Holly Hammann-Jacobs, Tony Spector, John Swenson, Casey Gregor, Adam Shadiow, Jennifer Smith, and Charlie Smith.
2. Review of Agenda and Notes
 - a. ***Motion by Larson, second by Pat Lee to accept agenda and April 25, 2016 meeting notes. Motion Carried.***
3. Review Charge of the Workgroup
 - a. Charge 1 - Recommendation for Certification of EMT's after March 31, 2016 (Initial & Refresher) – Complete
 - b. Charge 2 - Statute and Rule Changes Necessary for Implementation of Recommendations – Complete
 - c. Charge 3 - Recommend additional Statute and Rule Changes Needed (Licensure vs. Certification)
 - d. Charge 4 - Recommendations for EMR in Minnesota
 - e. Charge 5 - Education Program Approval and Re-Approval Requirements – somewhat complete
4. As it pertains to Charge 3, Licensure vs. Certification
 - a. Tony Spector reported the staff conducted a 50 state survey, included in the packet, this survey covered which states do licensure and which states do certification. While conducting the survey, it was reported Texas is the only state that has difference educational requirements at the Paramedic level for licensure over certification.
 - b. Looking more generally at the question, why does Minnesota offer a certification vs. a license?
 - i. Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) was contacted and they deemed Minnesota EMS Officials be certified versus license. (See note in attachment A-3 of agenda)
 - ii. EMSRB may be required to charge for a license, which in turn may change the EMSRB's financial status from a general revenue fund and could be a slippery slope.
 - iii. EMR Registration may need to be considered certification
 - c. This workgroup was charged with looking at licensure versus certification, the Medical Directors Standing Advisory Committee (MDSAC) and Legislative Committee have both asked for this topic to come back to the PTWEG and the recommendation be sent back through MDSAC and Legislative committees.
 - d. Discussion:



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- i. Concerns were brought up related to change in workload for the EMSRB. It was noted if these were simple terminology changes in statute, there would be some work, but it would be minimal.
- ii. Most states that have licenses have practice acts, which Minnesota does not have.
- iii. There is an EMS Agenda for the Future and other things going on, so I am not certain we need to make this change soon – Haffield.
- iv. The Minnesota Board of Firefighters indicated they use a model of “if you are full-time you have a license, if you are volunteer you don’t” however, this model hasn’t been ideal and it is difficult to define volunteer.
- v. What are we trying to solve by having licensure versus certification?
 - 1. Consie – We are trying to raise the level of professionalism of EMS in the state. By having a license, the EMSRB has additional regulatory authority that other boards have and the EMSRB currently does not.
- vi. Hagstrom – “Essentially, we want all paramedics to have the same education, whether you are licensed or certified, so to me it’s more of a ‘keep it simple method’. We are doing things the same regardless”
- vii. “If it’s just a word change, great, if it adds more requirements, then not way”.
- viii. Hagstrom – “professionalism should be industry driven, not legislatively. So, I question, if we should really be setting the rules, unless there is a scope of practice difference – I am not in favor of making a change unless there is a valid reason.”
- ix. If there are dollars attached, then we’re going to have less credentialed individuals due to budget restrictions.
- x. Fire Fighters may also see changed and undue burdens with licensure if there are additional educational requirements.
- xi. If an individual is licensed does this increase liability?
- e. The original recommendation was to make EMT’s and Paramedics licensed, and EMR’s certified. No added requirements, no fee, just a name change. The committee heard clearly this wouldn’t be an issue if it’s a name change only, depending on the final word from OLA regarding licensure fees.

Motion by Lawler, second by Hagstrom “regardless of licensure versus certification, there are no educational differences to those levels.” – Motion carried.

5. Instructor Qualifications



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- a. Item 2 on attachment A-8 in the agenda packet read “Associate’s Degree and 4 years of verifiable experience....” These totals 6 years and the next sentence indicates “or Five years of verifiable experience...”
 - i. Clarification was made, this is for initial instructors, as there are no “refresher courses” at the EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic levels any longer with NCCP
 - ii. After lengthy discussion related to defining “verifiable” a motion was made.

Motion by Ewen, second by Hagstrom “remove the word verifiable from the experience and education section of Instructor Qualifications.” The motion was later amended to read “and 3 years of certification at or above... and five year of certification at or above.” Motion carried with Smith and Wright opposing. (see attachment 1).

- 6. Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - a. Special EMSRB Handout distributed (*attachment 2*)
 - b. Representatives from Police and Fire joined the group today.
 - c. Discussion related to:
 - i. Concerns over adopting the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) and the possibility of an automatic increase in hours if the NREMT decided to increase the hour requirement.
 - ii. The NCCP allows quite a bit of flexibility with 8 hours of required topics and 8 hours of additional topics (some of which police, fire, and other EMS personnel are already covering).
 - iii. Could a hybrid be offered so there is still a 16-hour requirement and departments could do either a 16-hour refresher or the 16 hour NCCP (8 NCCR, plus 4 LCCR, plus 4 ICCR).
 - iv. The NCCP would allow EMR’s to have 8 hours of specific education and 8 hours of customized education pertinent to the responder or unit.
 - v. Should we table this for two years and see how the EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic go first?
 - d. Statute reads “complete a Board Approved refresher course.”
 - i. ***Motion by Lawler, second by Baisley to recommend the board define “a Board Approved refresher course mean the 16-hour DOT refresher course OR the NREMT NREMR NCCP Model.” The motion was amended to include “any changes related to hour requirements will be revisited by the EMSRB.” Motion Carried with Weller opposing.***
 - ii. The EMSRB will need to have a “what does this mean” document to include the benefits related choose the refresher course type and noting this does not require EMR’s to be Nationally Registered EMR’s through the NREMT. (*attachment 2*)



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7. What does MN Approved Education Program mean?
 - a. EMSRB Staff interprets this as an education program approved by the EMSRB.
 - b. There have been some questions as to what a MN approved Education Program is.
 - c. It was agreed, the staff interpretation is correct
8. Other Items
 - a. Are we adding any additional requirements to education?
 - i. Do we add CPR and/or ACLS?
 1. EMSRB can dictate LCCR requirements, so CPR could be this requirement.
 2. After statute review and noting there are people who will not be Nationally Registered until 2036, we need to ensure they maintain CPR and ACLS standard, therefore the following recommendation was made:

Motion by Totzke-Johnson, Second by Hagstrom to recommend keeping the CPR requirement at EMT and AEMT levels in Statute, CPR and ACLS at the Paramedic level in Statute, and add a CPR requirement to EMR in statute. Motion carried.
 - b. Education Webinar
 - i. There a brief update on the webinars the EMSRB held on August 15th and 17th. Most workgroup members attended and felt the webinar went well. It was noted the importance of inviting ambulance managers and education programs to the webinar.
 - c. In the future Hagstrom would like to see the EMSRB improve the NCCR content. He feels some of these topics are far behind and Minnesota is further ahead than most regions in the nation.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting by Wright, Second by Lee.

Meeting adjourned 1408